

A NEW VARIETY OF SCLEROCARPUS UNISERIALIS (ASTERACEAE,
HELANTHAEAE) FROM SOUTHERNMOST TEXAS

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Feddema (1972) treated Sclerocarpus uniserialis (Hook.) Benth. & Hook. as comprised of three varieties: 1) var. uniserialis, confined to Texas; 2) var. frutescens, widespread from northeastern Mexico to Guatemala; and 3) var. rubridiscus from the Pacific slopes of Mexico (Michoacan to Chiapas). The latter two varieties appear to intergrade extensively in central Oaxaca.

The type of the species was first collected near San Felipe, Texas (Austin Co.) by Drummond, and described in 1837 by Hooker. As noted above, Feddema (1972) treated the var. uniserialis as endemic to Texas, noting that "The Texas populations are well isolated from those in Mexico" and that "the nearest Mexican plants of the species [var. frutescens] have been found near Monterrey [Nuevo Leon]." He does comment, however, that two distinct color forms of var. uniserialis occur in Texas, forms with yellow disk corollas (representing the type species), and forms with reddish or purplish-brown disk corollas. He correctly notes that the latter are known only from southernmost Texas from the counties shown in outline in Fig 1.

In connection with my treatment of Sclerocarpus for Mexico, I have had occasion to sort out the geographical variation found in S. uniserialis. I was surprised to find that the specimens of southernmost Texas with purplish disk corollas made up a coherent group, and were largely confined to dune soils and that the several characters given in the description below tended to cohere, with little evidence of intergradation with the allopatric yellow-disked populations, which largely occupy calcareous or mixed sandy-calcareous soils of south-central Texas (Fig 1). Indeed, the distinction between these two populational "forms", as judged by herbarium sheets, were more marked than between the varieties frutescens and rubridiscus, both of which were proposed and maintained by Feddema (1972). I have little hesitation, then, in proposing the following varietal novelty:

SCLEROCARPUS UNISERIALIS VAR. AUSTROTEXANUS, B. Turner, var. nov.

A var. uniserialis vestimento foliorum densiore flavovirenti, capitulis grandioribus, corollis disci longioribus (10-12 mm longis) numerosioribus limbis purpurascens differt.

TYPE: UNITED STATES. TEXAS. KENEDY CO.: just S of Armstrong, dune area, off U.S. highway 77, 25 Sep 1958, C.L. Lundell & D.S. Correll 15227 (holotype, LL).

Additional specimens examined: TEXAS. BROOKS CO.: 5 mi N of Encino, 31 Jul 1961, Feddema 1468 (TEX); King Ranch, 21 Nov 1954, Gould & Morrow 6759 (TEX); between Encino and United Carbon Black Plant, 16 Apr 1954, Johnston 54505; S of Falfurrias, 15 Sep 1942, C.L. Lundell & A.A. Lundell 11946 (LL); Falfurrias, 16 Jul 1925, Tharp 3836 (TEX). DUVAL CO.: 3 mi W of San Isidro, 9 Oct 1954, Tharp & Johnston 541861 (TEX). KENEDY CO.: Near Rudolph, 3 Jan 1963, Correll 26920 (LL); King Ranch, 23 Jul 1953, Johnston 5328040 (TEX); King Ranch, 27 Sep 1953, Johnston 5328042 (TEX); King Ranch, 24 Nov 1953, Johnston 5328043 (TEX); STARR CO.: 25 mi above Rio Grande City, 16 Jun 1928, Tharp s.n. (TEX) WILLACY CO.: 2.4 mi S of Yturria, 6 Jul 1954, Johnston 541090 (TEX); Yturria Station, 8 May 1937, Runyon 1686 (TEX).

The var. austrotexanus has not been collected in Mexico as yet, but is to be expected in sandy soils along the Rio Grande, since the taxon has been collected relatively close to the Rio Grande in Starr and Hidalgo counties.

It should be noted that the only other collections of S. uniserialis with purple limbs examined by me in this study have been the following: MEXICO. CHIHUAHUA: 3 km S of Rancho La Gloria (27° 18' 30" N, 104° 13' W), 1450 m, 29 Aug 1972, Chiang et al. 8993 (LL), and COAHUILA: 25 air mi NW of Esmaralda (27° 34' N x 103° 59' W), 20 Sep 1971, Henrickson 6980 (LL). Both collections are near each other and far out of the range of the two varieties discussed above. These appear to be populational forms of S. uniserialis var frutescens, possessing most of the vegetative characters of that variety.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- Feddema, C. 1972. Sclerocarpus uniserialis (Compositae) in Texas and Mexico. Phytologia 23: 201-209.

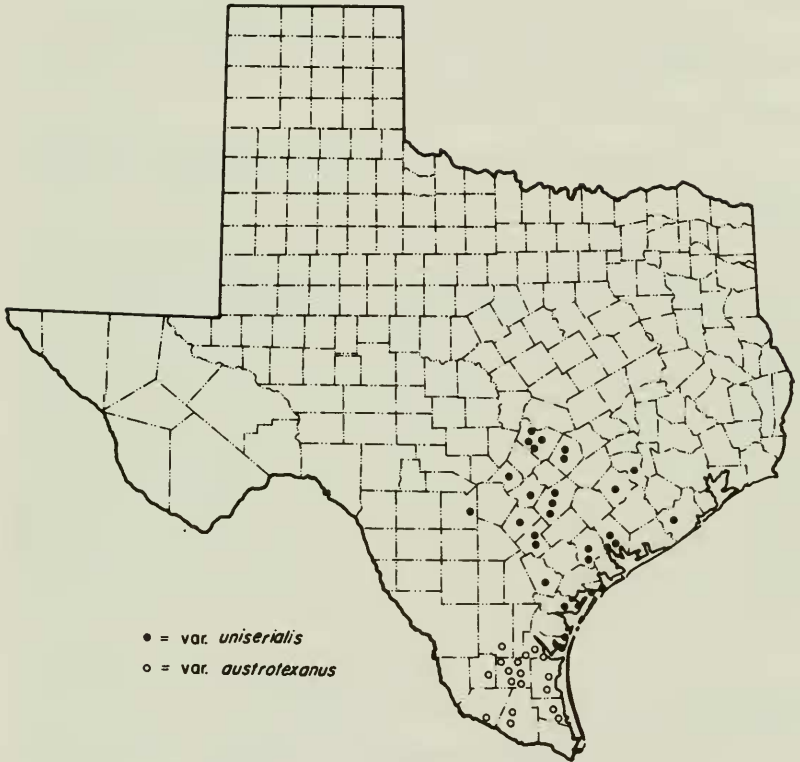


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Sclerocarpus uniserialis*